GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
USE OF SUB- STANDARD SEED, MANURE AND PESTICIDES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Food Policy and Research Institute has mentioned in its report about foodgrains being spoiled due to the use of sub-standard seeds, manure and pesticides in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete step on the basis of this report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 375 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND AUGUST, 2005.

(a): This Ministry is not aware of any such report by International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) indicating that the food grains are being spoiled due to the use of sub standard seeds, manure and pesticides in India.

(b) to (d): Question does not arise. To regulate quality of seeds, manure, fertilizer and pesticides, mechanisms are in place under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rule, 1968, Seeds (Control) Order, 1983, Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and Insecticides Act, 1968 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue stop sale order in case the commodities under reference contravene these Acts, Rules and Orders.

Salient features of these legal instruments are annexed.

Annexure-1

Salient features of the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seeds Rules, 1968

? The Seeds Act was enacted in 1966 and Seed Rules were framed in 1968 to ensure that the farmers could get good quality seeds.
? After official release varieties are notified under the Seeds Act so that quality of seeds can be regulated.
? The main purpose of notification is to bring the seeds of particular crop under the purview of Seed Law Enforcement.
? The seed inspectors notified under Section 13 of Seeds Act empowered to draw the sample and analysis for verification of the quality of seeds.
? Notification of the variety is made by Central Government on the recommendation of the Central Seed Committee.
? Seeds Act and Seeds Rules provide for quality certification and minimum quality standards of notified kind/varieties.
? The Seeds Act authorizes formation of advisory body like Central Seed Committee (CSC), Central Seed Certification Board (CSCB), Seed Certification Agencies, Seed Testing Laboratories appellate authorities etc.
? Quality Control as envisaged in the Act is to be achieved through pre & post marketing control, voluntary certification and compulsory labelling of notified kind/varieties.
? Minimum limit for germination, physical and genetic purity of varieties have been prescribed and notified for labelling the seeds of notified kind varieties under Section 6 of the Seeds Act.
? There is a provision to set up Central Seed Laboratory and State Seed Laboratory (100 in number) to discharge functions enshrined under Section 4 (1) and 4(2) of the Seeds Act.
? Seed Analysts are appointed through notification with prescribed qualification.
? State Government under Section 13 of the Seeds Act may appoint such person as he thinks fit having prescribed qualification through notification as Seed Inspector and defined the areas within which they shall exercise jurisdiction for enforcing the Seed Law.
? Seed Inspectors appointed under relevant provision have adequate power under Section 14 of the Seeds Act to draw the samples

of notified kind/varieties of seeds from the source where the seeds have been sold.
? Seed Inspectors can seize the stock of the seed, issue stop sale order for 30 days in case the seed under reference contravenes the Act and Rules.
? If any person, contravenes any provision of the Act or any Rules, or prevents a Seed Inspector from taking sample under this Act or prevents a Seed Inspector from exercising any other power conferred on him, could be punished under Section 19 of the Act with a fine of five hundred rupees for the first offence.
? In the event of such person having been previously convicted of an offense under this Section with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to six months or with fine, which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Annexure-II

Salient features of the Seed Control Order, 1983:

? The Ministry of Civil Supplies through an order dated 24.02.1983 had declared the seed for sowing or planting or food crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle fodder and jute to be essential commodities in exercise of power conferred by Section 2(a)
(viii) of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

? It was followed by the issue of Seeds (Control) Order dated 30th December, 1983 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in exercise of powers contained in Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act which deals with Central Governments power to control and regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities.

? Joint Secretary (Seeds), Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, DAC has been appointed as Seed Controller.

? It is one of the legal instrument being enforced to check the supply of inferior seeds of notified and unnotified seeds to the farmers. All persons carrying on the business of selling, exporting and importing seeds will be required to have a licence to carry on the business in accordance with terms and conditions of licence granted to him.

? Based on such enquiry as it thinks fit the licensing authority may grant or refuse the license in provisions of the Order. An holder of licence shall be eligible for renewal.

? Seed Inspectors notified under clause 12 of the Order eligible to draw any samples of seeds meant for sale or export/import etc. and to ensure that the sample confirms to the standards of quality claimed by the Seed Dealer under clause 13 (c) of the order.

? Seed Inspectors have powers for search and seize the seeds under relevant provisions of this order.

? Licensing Authorities are empowered to cancel or suspend the licence under the relevant provision of the order.

? Appellate provisions were provided in the order.

Annexure-III

Salient features of Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985

? There is no control order for manure/organic fertilizer as on date. Efforts are being made to include organic fertilizer and Bio-fertilizer under fertilizer control order(FCO)

? Quality of fertilizer is regulated under Schedule I of FCO, 1985 under ECA, 1955.

? FCO, 1985 prohibits the sale of such fertilizers which do not meet the standards specified in FCO.

? Violation of provision of FCO is actionable both administratively and legally under FCO/ECA.

? There are 67 fertilizer quality control testing labs in the States including 4 labs of the central government - one each at Faridabad, Mumbai, Chennai and Kalyani.

? The analysing capacity of laboratories is about 1.25 lakh samples per annum.

? The state governments are the enforcement agencies for implementation of the FCO.

? The percentage of non standard samples at all India level is around 5-6%.

Annexure-IV

Salient features of the Insecticide Act, 1968

? Import, manufacture, sale and distribution of pesticides is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1968 and Insecticides Rules, 1971. There is a provision for registration of pesticides at the Central Government level and licensing for manufacturing and sale of pesticides by States/UT Governments after registration.

? The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety to human beings and animals. If the pesticides are used as per the guidelines contained on their labels and leaflets, they do not cause any damage to human beings, animals or the environment.

? The Act provides for notification of four important functionaries for this purpose viz., Licensing Officer, Appellate Authority, Insecticide Inspector and Insecticide Analyst to ensure that only genuine/quality pesticides are dispensed/distributed in the market. Stringent administrative/legal action against defaulters of law is taken by the States/UTs.

? There is a network of 46 State Pesticide Testing Laboratories and 2 Regional Pesticide Testing Laboratories of the Central Government and the Central Insecticides Laboratory, established under Section 16 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to test and analyse the quality of insecticides. About 50,000 samples are drawn and tested annually.